

REMARKS

Claims 1-28, 30, 32-41, 43-48, 50 and 51 were pending. No claims are canceled and no new claims are added. Thus, after entry of this amendment, **claims 1-28, 30, 32-41, 43-48, 50 and 51 will still be pending.**

Claims 1, 39 and 43 are amended to replace “T2R” with “T2R44” and to recite specific T2R44 polymorphisms from Figure 1. Claim 6 is amended to specify that at least one of the nucleic acid molecules is a T2R44 variant-specific nucleic acid molecule. Claim 20 is amended to replace “T2R” with “T2R44” and to recite amino acid sequences of particular T2R44 variant polypeptides. Claims 23 and 32 are amended to replace “T2R” with “T2R44” and to recite particular nucleic acid sequences encoding T2R44 variants. Claims 26, 34-36, 40, 47, 48, 50 and 51 are amended to replace “T2R” with “T2R44.” Claim 34 is further amended to correct claim dependency. Claims 2, 3, 7, 15 and 16 are amended for clarity or to correct minor typographical errors. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Claims 1-28, 30, 32-41, 43-48, 50 and 51 are subject to a restriction requirement. In particular, the following Groups have been designated:

Group I	Claims 1-16, 20-25, 43 and 44 Drawn to T2R variant-specific nucleic acid molecules and kits comprising
Group II	Claims 17-19, 45 and 46 Drawn to T2R polypeptide fragments and epitopes
Group III	Claims 26-28, 30, 32 and 33 Drawn to a method of screening compounds useful for modulating taste by measuring nucleic acid expression
Group IV	Claims 34-36, 47, 48, 50 and 51 Drawn to an <i>in vivo</i> method of screening compounds useful for modulating taste by measuring binding to or activity of a T2R taste receptor
Group V	Claims 37 and 38 Drawn to a ligand that binds specifically to a T2R taste receptor
Group VI	Claims 39-41 Drawn to a method of determining a T2R genotype for a subject or a plurality of subjects

Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-16, 20-25, 43 and 44, without traverse.

The Office further requires that a single T2R sequence be elected for prosecution.

Applicants hereby elect T2R44, without traverse.

Applicants note that the Examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Since Applicants have elected the product claims of Group I, upon indication of allowance of one or more of these claims, any withdrawn process claims (Groups III, IV and VI) that depend from or otherwise incorporate all limitations of the allowed product claims, will be entitled to rejoinder and examination.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

Substantive examination of the pending claims is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the representative for Applicant listed below if the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would facilitate substantive examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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